

# Pukalani Baptist Church

WITH CHRIST, INTO CRISIS!

*"...He Hath Said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."  
Hebrews 13:5b*

**Sunday, June 14, 2020**

## **Pastor's Pen by Pastor Paul Kaneshiro**

ALOHA, PBC Fellowship!

ALOHA commonly means "Hello", "Goodbye" & "I love you" in our culture. Yesterday we bid ALOHA to Debbie & Ernie Shield as they departed Maui to return to Idaho. Last Sunday's Newsletter contained Ernie's Testimony. At the end of that, is his ALOHA to us:

"I want to thank my church family at PBC for helping me grow in the last five years and I will miss you all very much as God is moving Deb and I to a new adventure in our lives back on the mainland. May you all continue to serve Christ and each other in all that comes your way. I will leave you with this Quote from **John Piper** "**God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.**" That is my prayer for you all and myself that we would always be satisfied in our sovereign and Holy God that loves more than we can ever imagine and living for Him is the only way you will fill an empty soul.  
> God Bless Ernie Shields

Another ALOHA I've had the privilege of sharing is with a good friend, Scotty Schaefer, who is in the last part of his journey Home to Heaven. He returned home to Molokai about a week ago. His wife, Lynette, is the retired Police Chaplain on Molokai and they are dear friends to our Household. Over the years they have stayed with us in our home when they traveled to Maui.

As I talked with Lynette a few days ago, he was still sharing Jesus's ALOHA with others even at this stage. I want to be like him when our Heavenly Father calls me home.

In GOD'S ALOHA,  
Pastor Paul

## **Instructions to Accessing the Sermons on our PBC website:**

1. Log on to [www.pukalanibaptist.com](http://www.pukalanibaptist.com);
2. Click on Messages;
3. Click on 2020 Messages; and
4. Choose the Sermon of the Day (i.e. for today's sermon, click on the 6/14/20).

Sermons may take about a week to be posted to [www.pukalanibaptist.com](http://www.pukalanibaptist.com). Thank you for your patience as we continue to provide this ministry to the church.

For assistance, please email the church office at [pbcmaui@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pbcmaui@hawaii.rr.com) or call (808) 572-7968

### **A Message from Laura Newell**

Remember "Lani" from last week? Something she told me a few years ago about giving back to the Lord made me think about that. She had been released from MCCC, home with her family, and expecting their fourth child. Money was tight, yet the Holy Spirit had been speaking to her about giving back to God. She talked with her husband about it and they agreed that they really couldn't afford to even tithe.

Some months passed and the Holy Spirit continued to speak to them through God's Word, so the same subject was raised again. This time there was more urgency and the conclusion was quite different: we can't afford NOT to give back to the Lord. That was their conclusion after reading Malachi 3:10-12:

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be food enough in my Temple; if you do, I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to take it in! Test Me! Let me prove it to you! Your crops will be large, for I will guard them from insects and plagues. Your grapes won't shrivel away before they ripen," says the Lord Almighty. And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land sparkling with happiness. These are the promises of the Lord Almighty."

Lani and her husband prayerfully began to give back to the Lord, trusting Him to be their Provider for a family of six. They decided to put God to the test! Much to their great surprise, He providentially brought money in from other sources, and at the end of the month they had more money than any previous month. Amazing grace! Now they faithfully give back to the Lord who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, who doesn't need their money at all. He does, however want them to trust Him, and after all, isn't giving to God really a matter of faith in Him?

In addition, Lani told me that she is now a general manager of a Kihei hotel, and despite the fact they have absolutely no guests now, her job is secure and she hasn't missed a day of work.

She and her husband stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, and I stand with them.

## Men's Sunday School Class

John Henry is leading a series through the book of Revelation for the Men's Sunday School Class. This virtual class starts at 8:30 AM. Logging on before 8:30 AM is helpful if possible. If you would like to join in, please email Gary Fitt at [gnfitt@live.com](mailto:gnfitt@live.com).

## PBC's Yard Ministry

Team:	Members of the Team:	Week of:
1	Jason, Thomas, Jim	Saturday, June 27, 2020
2	Shane, Duane, Kaipō	Saturday, July 11, 2020
3	Glenn, Gary, Rick	Saturday, July 25, 2020

## Today's Scripture

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2 (New International Version) NIV

## Interrelated

### My Testimony – Thomas Okuhama

My earliest memory of Pukalani Baptist Church was going to the Nursery School. Amy Murray and Miss Kendrick were the teachers. I think it was the 1965-66 school year. After finishing the Nursery School, the parents were encouraged to send us to Sunday School. They sent us to Sunday School whether we wanted to go or not. The van would come to pick us up every Sunday. The "van" was a used 1940-1950 style Panel Truck with wooden bench seats that ran along the walls. Miss Kendrick was one of the drivers for the Sunday pickup. It was an adventure riding the van no matter who drove. (Historical Newsletter #6)

My family was living in Corn Mill Camp at the time. It was a small group of families that knew each other. Corn Mill Camp was soon to close down and the Families scattered. Some went to Haliimaile Plantation and some bought land in a new

subdivision along Makani Road, Kihapai Place, and Nanaina Street. There were 4 families that have children relatively close in age that would play together. Mainly the boys. The Kamiya's were part of this group. Most of us would be picked up and dropped off for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School (VBS) by the church van which was replaced by 1970 style Ford Econoline van.

At Sunday School, VBS, and Worship Service we would learn about the bible and Jesus. There were no Children's Church. Everyone was in the service unless parents came by to pick up their children after Sunday School. Children were expected to sit quietly and behave. For me, as a child growing up, worship service was excruciating. Waiting for service to be over so the church van can take me home. Sometimes the singing the Hymns were okay. The preacher who preached the message was scary. He yelled a lot. As I got older, I now know the preacher was presenting the message in a dramatic and emphatic style. This statement is my interpretation, "Believe in Jesus Christ, Or WINDUP IN HELL!" Hearing this would scare me and tempt me but I was also afraid to walk up during the invitational. So, I resisted.

At home, being an Asian Family, we would be taught some of the Asian customs and practices. The family religion was Buddhism. My father, mother, and paternal grandmother were Buddhist. They were active in the Buddhist Mission (temple). My grandmother lived with us because my father was the oldest son (first-born). Filial piety was also expected of me because I am first-born. Also the general expectation of go to school, get good grades, graduate, get a good job and get married. And do not dishonor the family name.

These customs and practices conflicted with what was taught in the bible and led to some serious discussion in youth Sunday School class. There was no middle ground. To me, it was a no-win situation. It took many years for resolution.

I continued attending Sunday School, participating in youth activities, and participating in the church recreational league. During my Junior year in High School (1977-1978), the church had a Revival. It was 4-5 day event with an evening service every night. There was a guest preacher (I don't remember who). On night 1 he gave the message. It was moving. He gave the Call to Invitation. While the music was playing, I felt a tug on my chest. It kept tugging during the invitation but I resisted. I was thinking, "what is going on? Am I having a heart attack?" It subsided as the music ended. I didn't tell anyone what happened. On night 2 the message was given. The invitation was given. The music was playing. The tugging started. I knew now I was to go forward accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. The tugging stopped when I reached the front and told Pastor Stanley Shiroma, I accepted Jesus. This sort of tugging has never happened again.

A week later, Pastor Shiroma came by my house to arrange for Baptism. He was also checking with my parents if it was okay with them. They objected. My mother's explanation to me was "wait till you are an adult to join the church." I had to decline

Baptism. I did get baptize on my 3<sup>rd</sup> year at UH Manoa at University Avenue Baptist Church (UABC).

I titled my testimony as “interrelated”, which means “to bring into mutual relation” or “to have mutual relationship” because as I write this testimony, I came to realize how interconnected we are by being part of the body of Christ. Also, by reading the Historical Newsletter #7 (Thank you Gloria). Some of the people mentioned in the newsletter influenced me and led me to meet others that are now part of Pukalani Baptist Church.

These are some of the connections:

David Murray – Sunday School Teacher & Pee-Wee Baseball Coach → Eric Abe

Dennis Shiroma – Sunday School Teacher & son, Joel → Henry G.

Rodney Graybeal – Youth Leader → UABC → Michael & Naomi Ashman

UABC → Baptist Collegiate Ministries → Pastor Paul & June Kaneshiro

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention → Creative Arts Ministry → Jon & Jeni Kaneshiro

### **Prayer Chain**

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain email list, please contact the church office at [pbcmahawaii@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pbcmahawaii@hawaii.rr.com)

### **Niki Gibo's Testimony**

Growing up, I didn't know Jesus. I remember going to church at times, but the honest truth was it wasn't to worship & learn more about God & His Truth. The main reason of going to church was this: it seemed like this was what was expected of me. I even went to church with one of my friend's family, where I was asked to accept the Lord. My answer was yes! However, this answer that I gave meant nothing. I was given a brief description of what it meant to accept the Lord, but I didn't understand the true meaning of this decision. All my answer meant was that it was a pleasing answer and it would allow me to go home sooner. To sum it up, Jesus was not a part of my life until much later.

So moving forward, it wasn't until January 2008, that I started to attend Pukalani Baptist Church. Honestly, it wasn't something I wanted to do. After going to church for about 3 months, I became convicted about my attitude, and how I treated people and how I reacted to others when others didn't agree with me (more so at work) and this made realize that I needed Jesus.

However, it wasn't until February 2016 where I made the decision to be baptized. More happened this year as well. In August, I started my job as PBC's church secretary. Little did I know, that God would use this time to transform my mind in a way that truly revealed to me what resided deep in my heart. Although, this is still an ongoing process, there was a part of me that was revealed and

became transparent for me to see. Something I couldn't see before. How loving God was to discipline me!

There were characteristics that I had that were unhealthy, but more importantly how I dealt with people and situations needed work, and more importantly my relationship with God also needed work. My thoughts were not focused on Jesus, but on myself and how I looked to others. Truth states we are "to please God, not people" (Galatians 1:10), yet in reality here I was living opposite of what God's word says. During this time, help was present for me, yet I wasn't seeing what was real and true. I knew truth in my head. After all, I could even recite bible verses from my memory. The problem was that although I was reciting scripture, I was not living it or believing God's Word when it says, not to worry and it is God who we please.

Finally, it happened! In 2019, I began to see his truth stick in my heart and it changed my ways & thinking. Although my anxiety will always be my struggle, it was at this time in my walk with Jesus, that I began to listen to what was being said to me time and time again. Not only did my mind change, my heart changed. I made a choice. I could continue being filled with fear & anxiety, or embrace truth and trust in the Lord. By grace, I choice truth. His love is forever amazing! He, our Lord, has given me a longing to know Him more. He gave me the grace to know that it is Him who I please, trusting that He knows best. He gave me the wisdom to know that I could always trust Him in everything.

### **Prayer Requests for the Week**

Pastor Paul: I have a great friend on Molokai, Scotty Schaefer, who is a retired Medic. He is also a wonderful Musician & Man of God. Lynette, his Wife, is the retired Police Chaplain on Molokai. They stayed many times with June & I when they came to Maui. Scotty just started Hospice Care today.

Update from Laura Newell: Ruby is making slow progress. If she is okay in the morning, they will remove the breathing tubes. Thank you for your prayers.

Update from Laura Newell: Ruby's breathing tube was not removed. Please continue to pray for her. Also, pray for Jadelyn's husband Nick and their baby Kai. They will be flying in. Please pray that Nick & Kai will have a safe flight & arrival.

Byron Shimabukuro: I need to make a prayer request for my brother in law, Michael. He is Edna's sister's husband. He has been informed by his drs that he has prostate cancer and will have surgery done. Please pray for a successful surgery and recovery. Pray for salvation also. He is a devout Catholic. Aloha, Byron <><

Update from Laura Newell: Ruby is still in ICU and is being closely monitored. Please continue to pray 1) major complications continue to be avoided, 2) Ruby will continue to be responsive, and 3) give thanks for such excellent care in the ICU. Thank you so much.